

Bible Way
Church

The Bible



Way Church
Of Our Lord Jesus Christ
World Wide, Inc.

HEADQUARTERS:

1130 New Jersey Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C., U. S. A.

October 30, 1963

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Young People's Congress
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7 Welch Avenue
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Pioneer Homes, Apt. 4-D
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BIBLE WAY NEWS VOICE,
General Publication
Washington, D. C.

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Foreign Missions Board
Washington, D. C.

ELDER WILLIAM GERALD,
Secretary to Presiding Bishop
and Board of Bishops
Washington, D. C.

The Honorable James R. Hoffa, President
International Teamsters' Union
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoffa:

I wish to thank you and your Union for a financial gift to our school at Tappita, Central Province, Liberia, West Africa, which enabled us to purchase and send them a Jeep, about four years ago. It really did save the day for the African children at the village of Tappita, about 250 miles from Monrovia, in the Interior. I have an enrollment of approximately 100 children, whom we feed, educate, and furnish medical care.

We have a serious budgetary problem there. We need a donation of \$5,000 to help us to carry on.

The local Highway program here, the center leg, which as planned, is causing us to face a relocation problem. It is seriously hindering our work, as we have just completed a \$400,000 addition to the church's constructing of a Day-Care Nursery, Gymnasium, etc., down the street from your palatial headquarters building, in an underprivileged area of the Second Precinct. It seems to me that the Government has been derelict and faulty in its planning, which is causing a hardship on our church and the people which must be relocated without adequate provision being made for their relocation. Please read the news report from the Washington Post which I am enclosing.

Mr. Hoffa, I wish you to please express my thanks to your Finance Board which will make determination in the matter of this donation. The International Teamsters' Union has been very generous and has made some wonderful gifts to various institutions for the general community welfare. We congratulate you very highly for this public spirited attitude.

Very truly yours,

Bishop Smallwood E. Williams

SEW/wg

*Bible Way Church of
Our Lord Jesus Christ
Smallwood E. Williams*

Bible Way Church Members Fight District's Plan To Raze Building to Make Way for Leg of Freeway

By Dorothy Gilliam

Staff Reporter

When District Highway Department maps showed the center leg of the Inner Loop heading straight through Bible Way Church in the tough Second Precinct, it was inevitable that the plan's unveiling would brew a torrential storm for the city.

The reason: a threat to the church is a threat to the community. At least many people feel that way.

This important church, at 1130 New Jersey ave. nw., is the hub, culturally, morally and socially, of a major section of Washington.

Bible Way has 5000 members and a politically potent pastor named Bishop Smallwood Edmond Williams.

It is a Sunday meeting place for all of five services each Sunday. But it is also a daily meeting place. It has an air-conditioned nursery that can handle up to 50 children of working mothers, a gymnasium for neighborhood boys, a library of 500 volumes, 10 religious education rooms. It also operates a social service store and a 50-acre summer camp at Deale, Md.

Civil rights rallies often are held in its 2000-seat auditorium. Nearly 40 per cent of its members live within walking distance of the church.

Just up the street, at 3d and L. is the Bible Way Training School, where young preachers, missionaries and Sunday School workers are trained.

Because the church forbids the use of alcohol and tobacco and looks with disfavor upon dancing and sports, there is a moral rigidity among its members that Williams says carries over into their everyday lives and makes the community better.

The church is pentecostal and evangelical. Its morning service is traditionally Protestant, but in the evenings, the members of the congregation "testify" of their personal experiences with God, singing, clapping their hands, shouting and dancing.

Said one member: "The mornings belong to the preacher, the evenings to us. It's very democratic."

Says Bishop Williams of the threat of the bulldozer:

"The people in this area look upon our church as a symbol. They know its history and growth. It gives them inspiration. They will feel there is a sort of ruthlessness about a District Government that considers highways over human beings."

"They will construe this as a lack of appreciation for their achievements."

With them it is kind of unthinkable that the District Government would move a permit to build a beautiful church then dare to do such as this. It seems so irresponsible and reckless."

Bishop Williams' words were echoed last summer by an elderly man near the sitting station on the corner. He remembered when Bible Way worshippers shook three handkerchiefs within a canvas tent. "Are they really gonna tear it down?" he asked.

Doubtless, much of the church's considerable influence in the community and its growth can be attributed to Bishop Williams, now a portly, graying man of 56 who started the congregation when he was 20.

Bishop Williams is a member of the executive committee of the District Democratic Central Committee, is president of the local chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and is a former member of the local NAACP's executive committee.

The cleric feels no issue is too big — or small — for his attention.

From his pulpit on Sunday morning and on his regular hour-long radio broadcast, he unreservedly blasts issues that range from civil rights to the treatment of natives in Angola.

His political potency can be illustrated by an event that took place in 1952, when Averell Harriman swept the Democratic primary here.

His influence resulted in the inclusion of Federal Judge Thorgood Marshall in the "Proclamation of the Living God" Centennial celebration here, earlier this year. There had not been a Negro taking part in the program.

"I believe," he observed from his headquarters appointed office, "that the minister should be outspoken and not a politician. Bishop Williams sometimes hovers near to being just that, however."

As he talked, the shrill of a child from the nursery below and the sound of a woman singing to them in a low voice punctuated the quiet of the room.

This man has told the District Commissioners and the Congress that it would be "a moral tragedy" to pluck the church from its neighborhood.

Among those who have come to bat for Bible Way is Ben Robert Humphrey (D-Minn.), who recently wrote Commissioner Walter N. Toberman that "it is difficult to believe that razing Bible Way is necessary."

Highway department plans for the freeway that would extend between the southwest freeway to Fourth and Q sts. sw. where it would connect with the north leg of the freeway would pull down its path "unduplicated in places in an underprivileged, depressed area," the cleric said.

In the wake of the uproar,



Bishop Smallwood E. Williams of Bible Way Church, which is threatened by the center leg of the Inner Loop, some of the church's members.



The Bible Way Church at 1130 New Jersey ave. nw.



Some basketball action in Bible Way Church's gymnasium.

Highway Department chief are precedents for leaving Harold C. Allen has said that he is exploring the possibility of underpinning or physically moving the church from its present location. Bishop Williams is cool to the latter idea.

The church is across the street from Northwest Urban Renewal Project No. 1 and while there is no specific site set aside for that church in the urban renewal area, the plan indicates sites available for community use, which would include churches.

As evidenced by the old man who was incredulous that the church might move, there is a real sentimental attachment to the church, and to Bishop Williams. People remember when on Saturday nights he stood on the corner at 7th and O sts. nw. and committed any comers to the baptismal pool. The church has had three different more fronts before it pitched a tent on its present site and finally moved into a home of its own in 1955.

It is a simply designed building.

In 1957, with other Pentecostal congregations, it withdrew from the Church of the Living God and formed the Bible Way Church of the Worldwide Incorporated. The New Jersey avenue church is the mother church and Bishop Williams is president of a board of eight bishops and a preaching bishop.

The organization now consists of some 200 churches in 25 cities in this country, the West Indies, England and Liberia.

Bishop Williams says there

State Jousting Tourney Set

Three former state champions will be competing for top honors at the 14th annual State Jousting Tournament of Maryland Sept. 28 at Owings Mills.

Defending his title, which he has held for two undefeated seasons, will be Leon Entlich of Frederick, a young dairy farmer. Former state champions, Marv Lou Barron of Barham Manor, Baltimore County, and Waldon Burton of St. Marys County are also scheduled to be among the 100 competitors this year.

The tournament is expected to draw participants from throughout Maryland.

Today's Chuckle

"I have a feeling," he concludes, "that highways follow the line of least resistance. We don't intend to be that line when it comes to our church."

For Drains, Sewage Plant, Schools

Arlington Sets \$9.9 Mil

By Richard Homan

Staff Reporter

The Arlington County Board voted yesterday to request a \$9,900,000 bond issue on the school system.

More than half the total would be used to expand the county's sanitary system and provide a secondary sewage treatment plant.

County Manager Bert W. Johnson told the Board that his visits with County citizen groups indicated "general support and interest for this project."

The secondary sewage treatment plant to be built at the present plant's location on S. East st. will cost \$4,700,000 and \$800,000 more will be paid to the District for diversion of flow.

School Bond Issue

At an earlier board meeting, Johnson pointed out that Arlington was one of the first area governments to provide treatment of sewage, but it has lagged in the building of a secondary treatment plant.

A school bond issue, included in the total figure, will be

\$1,950,000. A million dollars each will be used for County land acquisition and sanitary drain construction and \$440,000 will provide an addition to the central county library building.

Board member Rove Lowry complained that the school bond issue would provide nearly a half million dollars to both Washington-Lee and Wakefield High Schools but nothing to Yorktown.

He said enrollment figures for 1963-65 showed Yorktown for overcrowded by 20 per cent and the other two high schools overcrowded by less than 10 per cent.

"I'd like to see something done for Yorktown," he said, "I don't accept the School Board statistics that say any of this overload will decrease. I don't think it would be unreasonable to build Yorktown to 1300 capacity."

The school bonds will provide \$475,000 for an auxiliary gymnasium, locker facilities and remodeling at Washington-Lee High School and \$350,000 for additional classrooms and shop facilities at or an

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Per your request

Pat

Check
Delivered
~~sent~~ to
Bishop Williams
4/26/00
by E. Collorway

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Bible Way Church of
Our Lord Jesus Christ
World Wide, Inc.

April 20, 1960

Mr. Charles Chuckray
Comptroller
1641 So. Kingshighway
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Chuckray:

Attached is a communication which is self-explanatory.

Will you kindly issue a check for \$1000 and forward it to me at this office in compliance with the request of Bishop Williams.

Upon receipt of your check I will forward it with appropriate communication to the Bishop.

Faternally yours,

H. J. Gibbons,
Executive Assistant to the
General President

HJG/jc
Encl.



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The Bible Way Church

Of Our Lord Jesus Christ World Wide, Inc.



HEADQUARTERS: 1132 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 1, D. C., U. S. A.

SMALLWOOD E. WILLIAMS, D.D., Presiding Bishop

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National Evangelist and Organizer
1724 Denning Road, N. E.
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MRS. GENEVA SHELTON

National President of Missionaries
1926 Denning Road, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

ELDER WILLIAM GERALD

Secretary to the Presiding Bishop
4705 Addison Road
Boxer Heights
Washington 27, D. C.

April 19, 1960

Mr. James Hoffa, President
National Teamsters' Union
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I recently had the pleasure of visiting our foreign mission Church in the Central Province of Liberia, W. Africa. Last year the Liberian Government gave us 200 acres of land for the purpose of building a school and Church. Both of these are now under construction.

While there I observed that one of our great needs is a pick-up truck; therefore, I promised to send one immediately, which will cost approximately \$2,000 (two thousand dollars) including transportation. I have succeeded in receiving about \$1,000 (one thousand dollars) of this money, and we are appealing to you through your good offices and the generosity of your Organization, which is well known, to kindly donate the sum of \$1000 (one thousand dollars) to this cause, of which we and the people of Africa will be very grateful to you and your Organization, the Teamsters' Union.

Best wishes.

Yours truly,

Smallwood E. Williams
Smallwood E. Williams, D.D.

SEW/wg

P. S. Kindly make check payable to Bible Way World Wide Mission.

*Give to
Harold
2/11
Central States
conf*



The Bible Way Church

Of Our Lord Jesus Christ World Wide, Inc.



HEADQUARTERS: 1132 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, N. W. WASHINGTON 1, D. C., U. S. A.

SMALLWOOD E. WILLIAMS, D.D., Presiding Bishop

BOARD OF BISHOPS

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BISHOP MCINLEY WILLIAMS, D.D.

BISHOP A. W. SNOWELL, D.D.

BISHOP JOSEPH MOORE

Bible Way Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ World Wide, Inc.
Contributions
March 29, 1960
Smallwood E. Williams (Bishop)

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ELDER WILLIAM GERALD,
 Secretary to the Presiding Bishop
 4720 Addison Road
 Beaver Heights
 Washington 11, D. C.

Mr. James Hoffa, President
 National Teamsters' Union
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: In re: Telephone conversation March 29/60

I recently had the pleasure of visiting our Foreign Mission Church in the Central Province of Liberia, W. Africa. Last year the Liberian Government gave us 200 acres of land for the purpose of building a school and Church. Both of these are now under construction.

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Best wishes.

Yours truly,

Smallwood E. Williams
 Smallwood E. Williams, D.D.

SE: / 78
 BISHOP SMALLWOOD E. WILLIAMS, D.D.
 4720 - 15th Street N.W.
 Washington 11, D.C.